

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 28 and 35 – 39 (withdrawn).

11. (previously presented) A paintball marker system, comprising:
 - a paintball hopper;
 - a paintball marker; and,
 - a coupler having an open passage, said coupler releaseably couples said paintball hopper to said paintball marker, wherein paintballs pass from said hopper through said open passage into said paintball marker.

29. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus as defined in claim 11, A paintball marker system, comprising:~~
 - a paintball hopper;
 - a paintball marker; and,
 - a wherein said coupler having an open passage and adapted to releasably couple said paintball hopper to said paintball marker, wherein paintballs pass from said hopper through said open passage into said paintball marker
 - additionally, said coupler comprising a feed neck adapted to connect to said paintball hopper, a marker mount adapted to connect to said paintball marker, said feed neck engages and releaseably couples to said marker mount, said feed neck decouples and separates from said marker mount.

30. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, additionally comprising a plurality of pins extending from said feed neck, a plurality of grooves in said marker mount adapted to align to each of said pins, said grooves having a locking portion, and an o-ring and wave spring for holding each of said pins in said locking portions ~~[[if]]~~ when each pin is positioned in a locking portion.

31. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 30, wherein the number of positions where said paintball hopper is held immobile is limited to the positions where said pins align with said grooves.
32. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 31, wherein said open passage is at most 1360/1000 of an inch in diameter.
33. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 32, wherein said open passage is at least 680/1000 of an inch in diameter.
34. (previously presented) A paintball marker system, comprising:
a paintball hopper;
a paintball marker; and,
a means for releaseably coupling said paintball hopper to said paintball marker wherein paintballs pass from said paintball hopper into said paintball marker.
40. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus as defined in claim 34,~~ A paintball marker system, comprising:
a paintball hopper;
a paintball marker; and,
a means for releaseably coupling said paintball hopper to said paintball marker,
wherein paintballs pass from said paintball hopper into said paintball marker,
wherein said means for coupling comprises a feed neck adapted to connect to said paintball hopper, a marker mount adapted to connect to said marker,
wherein said feed neck slidably inserts into and releaseably couples to said marker mount, wherein said feed neck decouples and slidably exits said marker mount, and means for holding said feed neck immobile ~~[[if]]~~ when said feed neck is inserted into said marker mount and moved to a locked position.
41. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 40, wherein said means for said coupler holding said feed neck immobile comprises a plurality of pins extending from said feed neck, a plurality of grooves in said marker mount adapted to align

- to each of said pins, said grooves having a locking portion, and means for holding each pin in said locking portion.
42. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 41, wherein said means for holding said pin in said locking portion comprises an o-ring.
43. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 41, wherein said means for holding said pin in said locking portion comprises an o-ring and a wave spring.
44. (cancelled).
45. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, additionally comprising a plurality of pins extending from said marker mount, a plurality of grooves in said feed neck adapted to align to said pins, said grooves having a locking portion, and at least one of an o-ring and spring for holding said pins in said locking portion[[s]].
46. (new) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, wherein said open passage is at most 1360/1000 of an inch in diameter.
47. (new) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, wherein said open passage is at least 680/1000 of an inch in diameter.
48. (new) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, wherein said feed neck is adapted to remain connected to said paintball hopper when said feed neck decouples and disengages from said marker mount.
49. (new) The apparatus as defined in claim 29, additionally comprising a plurality of pins extending from said marker mount, a plurality of grooves in said feed neck adapted to align to each of said pins, said grooves having a locking portion, and an o-ring for holding each of said pins in said locking portion.